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Irish set to put new blasphemy law into effect

LEGISLATION Gosh Darn it! If blasphemy comes too easily to your lips, it might be prudent to just put a sock in it before heading to Ireland this fall.

Under new legislation to take effect this October, taking the Lord's name in vain could set you back a cool 25,000 euros, or about $38,000.

The law — which has already been approved by the Irish parliament and needs only the signature of the justice minister to become enforceable — states that a person commits blasphemy if they intentionally publish or utter "matter that is grossly abusive or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion, thereby causing outrage among a substantial number of the adherents of that religion."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Celebrity Buzz pg 22

MiCy keeps options open

Please recycle

Cupboard bare: Grits

Throne speech targets spending, promotes HST to offset deficit

KRISTEN THOMPSON
kristen.thompson@metronews.ca

British Columbians can expect possible layoffs, public-sector wage freezes and cuts to social services to help buoy the struggling economy, according to yesterday's throne speech.

Referring to this as the "worst recession in 27 years," the Liberals promised to examine the spending of public service providers — like B.C. Ferries, TransLink, health authorities and boards of education — and stood by the plan to implement the controversial Harmonized Sales Tax.

NDP Leader Carole James said she was disappointed by the speech, which she said was "directionless" and full of "recycled broken promises."

It was read by Lt.-Gov. Steven Point and marked the start of the 39th legislative session.

"The fiscal cupboard is bare and hangs on a wall of deficit spending," said, Point. "We must minimize spending on non-essential services and target discretionary spending where it is needed most."

The Grits also defended the planned 12 per cent combined PST and GST, promising it will help offset the province's ballooning deficit.

"The harmonized sales tax places us on a stronger job creation and investment footing," said Point. "It (is) critical to our economic future."

James said what was missing was an apology from the Liberals for not mentioning the HST in their campaign platform in May, which she said was tantamount to lying to the public.

Ex-gang member **No 'snitch'**

FERNANDO CARNEIRO/METRO VANCOUVER

Amir Javid says gangs could become a generational problem in Vancouver, similar to what is seen in Los Angeles. The founder of Real World Truth and an ex-gang member himself, says there is a lack of programs to help youth go straight without having to "snitch" on former associates, which places their lives at risk. Story, page 3.

Speech highlights:

Cellphones

• Legislation will be introduced to restrict the use of cellphones while driving. A survey by the B.C. Medical Association released last month shows that 76 per cent of British Columbians would support banning cellphones behind the wheel.

Kindergarten

• Full-time kindergarten for five-year-old children will start to be implemented in schools provincewide in September 2010.

Wood

• In an effort to boost B.C.'s forestry sector, a new Wood First policy will be legislated to require all public buildings to use wood as their default building material, inside and out.

Crime

• New legislation will deny income assistance to anyone in B.C. who has an outstanding warrant from another province.

Environment

• A Species at Risk Task Force will be established to make recommendations by June 2010 of a "new defining vision with a ... measurable outcome" to be achieved within 10 years.

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Glitches reported on Canada Line
Commuters using the new Canada Line are already running into glitches with the system, as many of the fare machines aren't accepting credit cards. TransLink said it's looking into the problem, and in the meantime asks that users pay with debit or cash. METRO VANCOUVER

Local

Local dancer teams with cricket star

Vancouver ballroom dancer Katya Virshilas, left, has been paired with outspoken cricket star Phil Tufnell in the upcoming season of Strictly Come Dancing — the British show that has been remade as Dancing With The Stars. The show's eight dance pairs were announced yesterday.

METRO VANCOUVER

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Tattoo-removal program criticized

Exchanging service for information could turn deadly, warns ex-gangster

FERNANDO CARNEIRO
fernando.carneiro@metronews.ca

The initiative to exchange gang tattoo removal for information is a death sentence for some gang members, according to a Vancouver man who counsels people looking to go straight.

Amir Javid, founder of Real World Truth and an ex-gangster himself, said the idea may seem progressive, but talking to police about your associates is "the No. 1 sin within that culture."

"They'll accept you more if you're a rapist, then if you're a snitch," Javid said.

Although he has a gang tattoo himself, Javid said he would rather keep it — and his life — than to even consider sharing information.

"How can I help these men and woman and get them to trust me, if they think I'm going to snitch on them?" Javid said.

Last week, RCMP Sgt. Shinder Kirk said Mounties believe the tattoo removal helps gang members re-integrate into society. Javid said that tattoo removal alone isn't enough and actually discourages people from approaching police because it asks them to become a "snitch."

He points to a program in the Los Angeles area called Homeboy Industries that claims "nothing stops a bullet like a job."

"They're able to mesh tattoo removal and employment for gang members," he said. "They teach trades to these gang members and real life skills. And those skills are then transferred into an actual business within the organization."

Javid called L.A.'s gang issue a generational problem and said Vancouver is on the brink of creating that same culture.

Real World Truth

- Since founding Real World Truth in 2006 Amir Javid has counselled various gang members and made presentations to more than 3,000 people — mostly school children.

He said turning his life around was tough.

"I said to myself, 'If it's so hard for me and I have such a willing desire, can you imagine how hard it is for some kid that might not articulate himself in the way I do, or might not have the support network that I have such as my family?'"

He said gangsters are usually looking for someone to follow.

"Gangs are just one guy followed by a bunch of other guys. If I can be the example ... telling them, 'Hey man, I care about you, I'm not going to give up on you,' they'll follow me into this lifestyle ... where there's peace."

- For more information, visit realworldtruth.com.

News in brief

DEER A man riding a stolen motorcycle was on the losing end of a collision with a deer, RCMP said. The 40-year-old Langley man suffered broken bones when he was thrown from the bike after clipping the animal. The deer ran off, seemingly uninjured.

SHOOTING Two vehicles were shot at early yesterday morning in Surrey. Police say the drive-by happened near 33A Avenue and 144th Street, and shell casings were later found on the road. No one was injured.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

Video Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach warns it may take years for the province's finances to fully recover at **metronews.ca/canada**

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Jenkins still only suspect in slaying

MURDER The investigation into Jasmine Fiore's death isn't over, but police in Los Angeles say Calgary reality TV star Ryan Jenkins — who was found dead on Sunday — is still the only suspect in her murder.

Jenkins' mother, who lives in the Lower Mainland, told reporters she's certain her son was innocent and killed himself because he panicked.

She said the family is devastated by his death and further investigation will clear her son's name.

Jenkins' father, Dan Jenkins, a prominent Calgary architect, told U.S. TV program The Early Show that Hollywood had corrupted his son, who was a contestant on the VH1 reality show Megan Wants A Millionaire.

Jenkins, 32, was charged with strangling his ex-wife in Los Angeles, removing her teeth and fingers, and dumping her naked body in a dumpster.

A massive manhunt was launched when he fled to Washington State and crossed the border into Canada illegally through Tsawwassen.

Jenkins had twice faced criminal charges stemming from alleged violence against women, once involving Fiore and another involving a former girlfriend in Calgary.

METRO VANCOUVER

REUTERS/TMZ HANDOUT

Model Jasmine Fiore with Ryan Jenkins in this undated image.

Missing fisherman found alive

RESCUE A missing Campbell River fisherman was found in a steep cliff area near Monroe Creek yesterday morning.

Pieter Kramer was airlifted to safety and taken to hospital after Coquitlam RCMP and more than 20 search-and-rescue volunteers spent two days looking for him.

Const. Brigitte Goguen said Kramer had last been seen while fishing in the area on Sunday, according to tips from the public.

"This information allowed search and rescue to narrow their search area," she said. "It's great to see this search end with a positive outcome."

"It's great to see this search end with a positive outcome."
Const. Brigitte Goguen

METRO VANCOUVER

News in brief

OUTAGE Thousands of residents and businesses in downtown Vancouver were without electricity for about 20 minutes shortly after noon yesterday when the power suddenly went out. B.C. Hydro is investigating what caused the outage.

LEGAL FIGHT A legal attempt by environmental groups to stop an American research vessel from conducting seismic testing off the west coast of Vancouver Island should be tossed out, lawyers for the federal government said. The sea-mapping technique is as loud as an army artillery piece going off.

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Whistler-Blackcomb early-bird passes going on sale

Early-bird passes for the Whistler-Blackcomb season go on sale tomorrow, and are $430 cheaper than they were last year. Season passes bought before Oct. 12 are $1,099 and include unlimited use of the Peak-2-Peak gondola. Some runs will be closed during the 2010 Olympics. METRO VANCOUVER

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Number of EI recipients in B.C. up in June

REPORT The number of people receiving employment insurance in British Columbia increased by 5.5 per cent — about 4,900 people — in June, according to Statistics Canada.

That's slightly above the national average of 5.1 per cent and a similar increase to the previous month.

In Vancouver, the number of people on EI has more than doubled since June 2008, with 34,600 beneficiaries. That's an increase of 21,800 people.

5.5%
The amount by which the number of EI recipients grew in B.C. in June.

The increases coincided with a substantial rise in the province's unemployment rate during the year to 8.1 per cent from 4.5 per cent. Most job losses over this period were in the manufacturing, transportation, warehousing and construction sectors.

METRO VANCOUVER

MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 8

Dancers full of hope

KRISTEN THOMPSON
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Vancouverites will have extra incentive to set their dials to So You Think You Can Dance Canada tonight, as two of the recently unveiled Top 20 dancers hail from the Rainy City.

Emanuel Sandhu and Taylor James trumped hundreds of dancers to earn a spot on the show, and said they hope to make their hometown proud on the first episode of the competition, which will air tonight.

Persistence pays off for former Olympian

Emanuel Sandhu

Emanuel Sandhu said earning a spot on So You Think You Can Dance Canada's Top 20 is a testament to the value of persistence and hard work.

Last season, Sandhu was cut from the show during finals week in Toronto, but the judges urged him to take the year to train and re-audition.

On Sunday, he was picked from roughly 200 finalists to be on the show because, Sandhu said, he took the judges' advice to heart.

"I made a commitment to work my buns off and get in the dance studio," he said yesterday.

"So when I made the Top 20 I was the happiest boy in the world."

Sandhu, a three-time national figure-skating champion and two-time Olympian, said being an athlete has prepared him for the tough competition ahead.

"Competition ... is not something new to me, although it's very unfamiliar territory to (be) dancing on stage," he said.

Vancouverite goes from spectator to star

Taylor James

Vancouver dancer Taylor James said it's surreal to have gone from watching his favourite show on the couch to starring in it.

"Being on (So You Think You Can Dance Canada) after years of being a huge fan and seeing how much work goes into the production — it's insane," James said yesterday.

He said that having trained in contemporary, jazz and hip hop has made him versatile as a dancer and able to adapt to many styles, but likened other genres — like ballroom — to "learning Chinese in two days."

"This is unlike any experience I've ever had," he said.

"It's definitely one of the most challenging things I've ever done in my career, but the most exciting thing as well.

"I'm here to represent the West Coast. There's only two of us here, and I hope I can make (British Columbians) proud.

News in brief

ARREST A 21-year-old Langley man was arrested at a police traffic stop in Langley after officers found a loaded firearm in his pocket. Mounties suspected that Robert Miskenack's car was stolen because there were no keys in the ignition.

THEFT Police are looking for two men who robbed another man at an ATM in a Chilliwack bank. The victim was taking money out at a TD Canada Trust when he was pushed against the machine and a knife was held to him. The victim was not injured.

AIRLIFT An 89-year-old cruise ship passenger was airlifted to hospital in Vancouver after experiencing medical complications connected to a recent surgery, cknw.com reports. The man was taken off the vessel north of Port Hardy.

FIRE BAN Fire officials removed a ban on campfires in the Lower Mainland yesterday, but the announcement was cold comfort for people in the B.C. Interior who are still on evacuation alert because of wildfires. Around 160 properties were evacuated because of a 480-hectare blaze near Salmon Arm. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Bush heads to Quebec
Former U.S. president George W. Bush will be travelling to Montreal in October for a speaking engagement, CBC News Online reports. Bush is scheduled to speak Oct. 22 at the Queen Elizabeth Hotel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Canada

Jurassic Park revisited?

After years spent hunting for the buried remains of prehistoric animals, a Canadian paleontologist now plans to manipulate chicken embryos to show he can create a dinosaur, reports say. Hans Larsson, the Canada research chair in macro evolution at McGill University, said he aims to develop dinosaur traits that disappeared millions of years ago in birds. Larsson believes by flipping certain genetic levers during a chicken embryo's development, he can reproduce dinosaur anatomy. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Aboriginals face AIDS spread

HEALTH AIDS is spreading faster among Canada's aboriginal people than in the general population, and a strong cultural stigma and links to rising drug use make the problem difficult to solve.

One health official compared it last week to the AIDS epidemic in Africa and warned that up to 30 per cent of the aboriginal population in Saskatchewan could die of AIDS within a decade.

Saskatchewan's top health official dismissed that prediction, but said the rapid spread of AIDS in the native population is a growing concern.

Many aboriginals, a broad term that includes Indians, Inuit and Métis, live in poverty and suffer poorer health than most other Canadians.

Those aboriginal people make up about 3.3 per cent of the population, living mainly in western cities, the North and on rural reserves. REUTERS

News in brief

FRACTURES Hip fracture rates have declined among the elderly for a variety of reasons, but the disabling injury is still a major health threat as populations age, Canadian researchers said yesterday. A steady year-over-year decline in fracture rates since 1985 predates widespread use of drugs used to treat osteoporosis and preserve bone density, the researchers said, even though drugs that first entered the market in the mid-1990s likely played a role. Between the years of 1985 and 2005, more than 570,000 Canadians were treated for hip fractures. REUTERS

PM meets with NDP boss

Talk comes after Grit leader publicly mulls forcing fall election

Prime Minister Stephen Harper was meeting with the head of an opposition party yesterday afternoon as political leaders mulled whether to risk forcing an early election in coming months.

Harper issued the invitation to Jack Layton, leader of the New Democratic Party, after Layton suggested last month that they talk before Parliament returns from its summer break.

The governing Conservative party has only a minority of seats in the House of Commons and needs the support of one of the three opposition parties to stay in power.

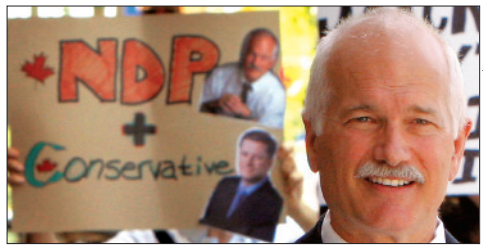
The Conservatives are sending out the message that the country's economic recovery is too fragile to risk holding another election campaign and possibly changing the government so soon after last October's vote.

"We're hearing the Canadian public telling us this is a very dangerous time to have an election," Harper spokesperson Dimitri Soudas said.

Liberal Leader Michael Ignatieff told the Montreal newspaper Le Devoir in an interview published Monday that an election at this point would not create any instability.

"We could have an election without endangering anything at all. You could even say it would be good for the country, but that's another story," Ignatieff said.

However, he added that he was still mulling whether to try to pull the plug on the government, asking himself whether the Liberal Party was ready, whether this would be in the national interest and whether it was possible to continue working with the Tories. REUTERS



CHRIS WATTIE/REUTERS

Protesters follow NDP Leader Jack Layton as he arrives to meet Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Ottawa yesterday.

"We could have an election without endangering anything at all."
Liberal Leader
Michael Ignatieff

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Comment

Modern twists on tragic love tale

TheWestView

I can't believe I'm writing this, but the Ryan Jenkins/Jasmine Fiore saga has a tragic, almost Shakespearean quality that elevates it above what one reporter called its "grimy glamour."

While its seamy details have cranked the reality TV/tabloid industry into hyperdrive, even threatening to replace Michael Jackson's bizarre addictions as the lead item, this story says something about our times and the people caught up in them.

Ryan, from Calgary, and Jasmine, from Bonny Doon, a suburb of Santa Cruz, Calif., were once real people.

Ryan worked with his father and made real estate deals in Canada's oil capital. He gave flying lessons. He was accomplished.

Jasmine, a.k.a. Jasmine Lepore, was once an athletic girl who loved dogs and horses and dreamed of becoming an actress.

Today they are dead. Jasmine's body was found mutilated to hide her identity, stuffed in a suitcase and discarded in a park near Los Angeles, where it was found by a homeless person. Ryan was the prime (and apparently only) suspect. On the run, he was found dead from an apparent suicide in a cheap motel room in Hope.

Before they died, they both caught Hollywooditis, which is often fatal. It affects the heart and soul and transforms its victims into strangers to their loved ones and, I suspect, themselves.

Jasmine changed her name, got a boob job, posed for Playboy and married Ryan, a guy she'd known for two days in Vegas. Ryan became a professional lounge lizard, signing up for "reality" shows called Megan Wants a Millionaire and I Love Money 3, both VH1 productions that wallow in greed and soft porn.

Almost inevitably, these two fakes found each other and that's when reality (the real thing) set in, like the mother of all hangovers.

It would take Shakespeare at the height of his powers to capture all the irony that taints this story. At its core, a most bitter twist: Although Jasmine's killer — allegedly Ryan — pulled her teeth out and cut off her fingers to obscure her identity, the CSI wizards identified her by the serial numbers on her breast implants. Even Shakespeare would have a tough time coming up with that one.

If there was ever a Romeo and Juliet for the reality TV generation, this is it, a cautionary tale for people who think in 10-second sound bites or 140-character Tweets, rather than Acts 1, 2 or 3. The form may be different, but the outcome is the same. The lovers end up dead and the rest is silence … at least until the next exclusive report, after these messages from our sponsor.

Paul Sullivan is a Vancouver-based journalist and owner of Sullivan Media Consulting; vancouverletters@metronews.ca.

Word on the street: Is global warming responsible for the extreme weather happening worldwide?

Tania Mondragon
age 32, Vancouver

A: I think it is related. We've reached the point where nobody has cared about the environment for so long and this is the result. It's a wake-up call to all of us.

Winston Hartle
age 24, North Vancouver

A: The answer is close enough to a "yes" that something should still be done. Even if the disasters aren't related to global warming, we should still be taking measures to protect the environment.

Hailley Caulfield
age 22, Vancouver

A: Most likely. The only thing that makes it weird is the stats saying these weather patterns happened before, so it could be cyclical. I do still think we're destroying our planet.

Sam Jomha
age 31, Edmonton

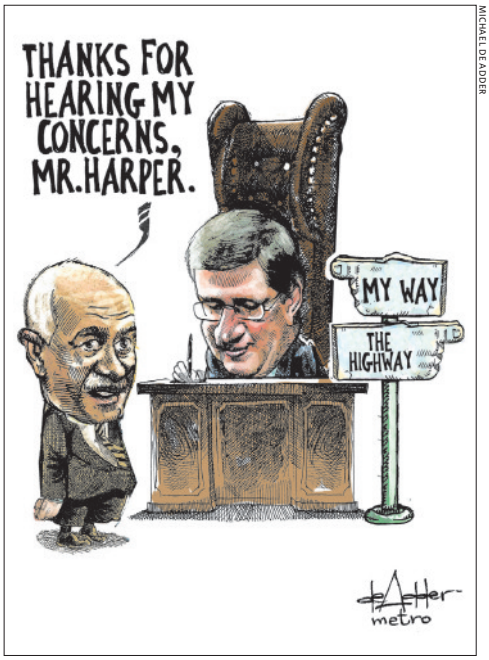
A: No, because historical weather patterns show that weather's always been like that — it's cyclical.

Lisa Hojszak
age 25, Calgary

A: Definitely. I've lived in Calgary my whole life and every winter has been different the past few years and every summer is different.

Andrew Spencer
age 40, Toronto

A: Yes … It has a lot to do with the industrial revolution that has put all the toxic waste and gas into the environment. It's an accumulation of years of neglect and greed.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

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Tobacco will kill 6 million: Report
Tobacco use will kill six million people next year from cancer, heart disease, emphysema and a range of other ills, the American Cancer Society said in a report issued yesterday. REUTERS

World

Marriage rights bill in Mali faces protests

Mali's top Islamic body urged President Amadou Toumani Toure yesterday not to sign a new family code boosting women's rights in marriage, pointing to mass protests against it in the mostly Muslim African state.

The code, which won the backing of parliament this month, would throw out a previous clause that a woman should obey her husband, as well as equalize inheritance rights between legitimate and illegitimate children.

"Signing this into law would go against the will of most of this country's over 80 per cent of Muslims," said Mohamed Kimbiri, secretary of the High Islamic Council.

Kimbiri said further protests through the country were planned after a rally through the capital Mabako at the weekend drew some 50,000 demonstrators.

"That was the biggest march ever organized — even the marches of March 26, 1991, did not mobilize as many people," he said of protests that brought down the dictatorship of Gen. Moussa Traore.

Cotton-producing Mali is one of the poorest countries in the world. While it is predominantly Muslim, it has a secular constitution. REUTERS

Philippines **Militant arrested**

ERIK DE CASTRO/REUTERS

Dinno Amor Pareja is escorted to jail in Metro Manila yesterday. Philippine National Police said Pareja, believed to be the new leader of Rajah Solaiman Movement, a local militant cell composed with links to the Abu Sayyaf, Jemaah Islamiya and al-Qaida, was arrested in the southern Philippines.

Runner returns to South Africa

GENDER CONTROVERSY
World champion South African runner Caster Semenya, whose victory has been overshadowed by a gender-testing controversy, returned home to a heroine's welcome yesterday. Furious South Africans have accused the International Association of Athletics Federations of everything from racism to imperialism for ordering a gender test after her rapid improvement raised suspicions. Semenya, who won the women's world 800-metres title in Berlin last week, was greeted by thousands at Johannesburg's airport. REUTERS

Blast kills 40 as race runs tight

AFGHANISTAN With early results yesterday showing Afghanistan's presidential race neck-and-neck, a massive truck bomb that killed 40 civilians and wounded 60 in Kandahar showed the scale of problems facing the eventual winner.

The blast took place shortly after dusk as Afghans across the country were breaking their daily fast in the holy Muslim month of Ramadan.

There was confusion over whether the explosion was from one big truck bomb or a series of smaller, simultaneous devices.

A Reuters witness saw a restaurant set ablaze and a shop and several houses flattened.

Provincial Gov. Ahmed Wali Karzai told Reuters that 40 people were killed and more than 60 wounded, all civilians.

Four U.S. servicemen were killed by a roadside bomb elsewhere in the south, NATO and the U.S. military said, making 2009 the deadliest year for the growing contingent of foreign troops in eight years of war.

Earlier, the first partial results from last Thursday's election had President Hamid Karzai and his main rival running neck-and-neck, suggesting a close race headed for a second round.

The country has been in political limbo since the vote, with Karzai and chief rival Abdullah Abdullah each claiming victory.

Abdullah and other challengers have accused Karzai and the authorities of widespread electoral fraud. REUTERS

News in brief

FEDERAL RESERVE U.S. President Barack Obama nominated Ben Bernanke to a second term as Federal Reserve chairman Tuesday, aiming for continuity at a time when the U.S. economy is breaking free from a deep recession. The decision, while widely expected, was welcomed by financial markets and policymakers around the globe. Economists said it removed uncertainty at a delicate juncture in the economy's recovery. REUTERS

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BMO reports better-than-expected Q2
Bank of Montreal said yesterday its quarterly profit rose 6.9 per cent, surpassing expectations, as it set aside less money to cover bad loans and trading revenue surged. REUTERS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Business in brief

HEALTH Human Genome Sciences Inc. shares rose nearly 12 per cent on renewed chatter that GlaxoSmithKline Plc. was set to pay a healthy premium for the company to gain full control of the promising lupus drug Benlysta. Human Genome shares soared in July after it released late-stage clinical data showing a significant improvement of lupus symptoms in patients taking the drug that many observers had written off. REUTERS

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EI claims down in June

More Canadians received Employment Insurance benefits in June compared with the month before, but the number of new claims also fell sharply — a sign that the worst of the recession may have passed.

In June, 816,630 people collected EI benefits, up 5.1 per cent from May and up 73.1 per cent year over year, from June, 2008, Statistics Canada said yesterday.

"This revelation provides hope that Canada's labour market is getting worse more slowly." Erin Weir, Economist

The biggest increases came in Alberta, British Columbia and Newfoundland and Labrador. At the same time, initial and renewal claims received in June fell by 7.9 per cent. That's the largest drop since the job market and the economy turned sour last October.

Claims fell in all provinces and territories, with the exception of Ontario, which saw a slight increase of 0.9 per cent.

"We are still in 'the worst of times.' Every month, tens of thousands more Canadians are laid off than can find new jobs," United Steelworkers economist Erin Weir wrote in a report yesterday. "The better news is that new benefit claims declined sharply, albeit from an all-time record high. While hardly 'the best of times,' this revelation provides hope that Canada's labour market is getting worse more slowly." REUTERS

In brief

AUTO Germany believes the management of General Motors is still committed to finding a buyer for its European unit Opel, government officials said yesterday after talks with the U.S. automaker in Berlin. REUTERS

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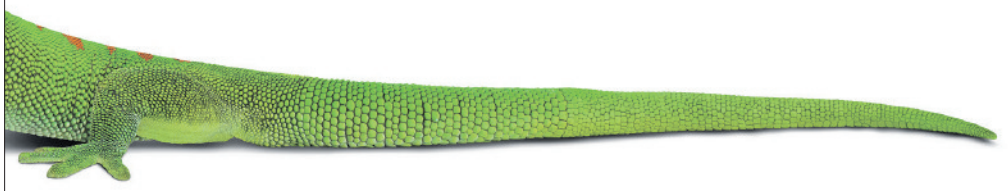

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Metro Workology exclusive: Backstage Pass

In the coming weeks Metro's Workology section will be focusing on the part of the entertainment industry that you DON'T see. Backstage Pass will focus on the careers behind the camera and the curtain. So be sure to read Workology and Metronews.ca/work every day.

Workology

Seismic testing

Three Canadian environmental groups have filed a lawsuit against the Minister of Fisheries and Oceans, Minister of Foreign Affairs, and New York-based Columbia University in an attempt to prevent a U.S. research project involving seismic tests in a marine protected area 250 kilometres southwest of Vancouver Island. METRO NEWS SERVICE

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Employers value marketing

STUDY Although the recession has hit many marketing departments hard, there is some good news for those in the creative industry: Sixty-one per cent of marketing and advertising executives interviewed said marketing teams have greater influence on business decisions than they did three years ago. This compares to 23 per cent who believe marketing professionals hold less sway.

The national study was developed by The Creative Group. It is based on 250 telephone interviews — 125 with advertising executives and 125 with senior marketing executives.

"In the current economy, especially, many businesses must reinvent themselves, and marketers can play an instrumental role in helping their firms identify and fill emerging needs," said Megan Slabinski, executive director of The Creative Group.

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Creative problem-solving

Film producer discusses the industry's highs and lows

RAF BRUSILOW
For Metro Canada

For Anne Tait, the journey to producing the Iron Road was a long and winding one indeed.

In fact, it was nine years long; though the endlessly energetic Tait is no stranger to arduous challenges.

The Toronto-born casting director, writer, director, broadcaster and producer has already mastered many roles in a long career in the entertainment industry. She was a senior casting director at CBC TV for years on shows like Anne of Green Gables and Road to Avonlea and has cast actors like Peter O'Toole, Russell Crowe and Helena Bonham Carter for feature films. She has also written and produced her own hit play, Yeats in Love, which played in Dublin, Ireland, and throughout Ontario.

Now with the recent premiere of her film Iron Road, Tait has finally conquered the role of film producer as well.

The film, which screened as a two-part mini-series on CBC Aug. 9 and 16, represents a labour of love nine years in the making for Tait who wanted to shed light on the harrowing story of Chinese railroad workers in Canada in the late 1800s.

Iron Road was produced in tandem with mainland China and cost more than $12 million to create, with filming split between China and the mountains of British Columbia.

Tait says her experience as a casting director definitely helped her ease into the role of producer.

"Every actor has an ego and you have to have a lot of tact to know what different approaches to use with different people. A producer has to have the financial savvy to raise money and the ability to understand the needs of creative people. You have to have a creative vision," Tait said.

While Tait learned the ins and outs of casting directing on the job, she credits her Masters degree in English from the University of Toronto for helping her hone the communication skills necessary to successfully head up a film production.

Despite having succeeded as a film producer, Tait is not yet ready to give up casting directing.

"The thing that always interested me the most was choosing the actors. I love seeing wonderful actors get a role and seeing wonderful performances from someone unexpected," Tait said.

Tait feels like she deserves her break before jumping into her next likely project, a screenplay of her play Yeats in Love.

"Right now I'm feeling wonderful emotions — it makes up for an awful lot of lows. A producer is always solving problems and right now, for at least a week, I don't have a fire to put out or a problem to solve," she joked.

Producer Anne Tait and script co-writer Barry Pearson on a film set. Tait credits her Masters degree in English for helping her hone the necessary communication skills needed in film production.

Backstage Pass

"A producer has to have the financial savvy to raise money and the ability to understand the needs of creative people."
Anne Tait, producer

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Canada Games Stadium upgrades
The Canada Games Stadium at the University of New Brunswick's Saint John campus will undergo upgrades following a $3.6-million investment announced recently for the project. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Blunder dismissal, pay the price

WorkplaceLaw

In life, seldom do small mistakes have large consequences. In law, that is not always the case. This is the tale of one Ontario company that just learned this lesson the hard way.

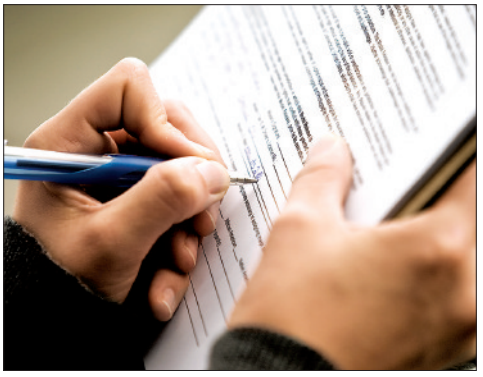
Despite having just lost her job, Kelly Stowar must have been elated. As an administrative employee, Stowar was not entitled to more than a few weeks' severance. Instead, however, she was given a letter by her former employer, Telehop Communications, stating that she would be paid five months' salary. Stowar signed her name on the space provided, indicating she was satisfied with the contents of the letter, and left the Toronto area office to go home.

A few days after signing the letter, Stowar returned to Telehop's office to return some of the company's property that she still had. She was met by Telehop's human resources manager and called into a meeting. Stowar was told that the company had made a "mistake" and that she would only be receiving three weeks' termination pay, not the five months that she was initially offered. She was then asked to sign a release, indicating that she agreed with the revised offer. Stowar refused, claiming she had agreed to a deal for five months' pay just days earlier.

Since Telehop only paid Stowar three weeks' pay, the parties next met in court. The issue for the judge to decide was whether the letter that Stowar received and then signed amounted to an agreement and, if so, was Telehop bound by its terms.

Upon dismissal, employees are typically given their statutory payments, which are set by provincial or federal legislation. Most are then offered a greater amount in exchange for signing a release, which prevents them from bringing any further legal action. That offer is usually set out in the letter of termination and it forms a contract, once both sides have agreed to the terms.

Here, the court concluded that there was nothing to suggest that Telehop intended to offer any further compensation other than what was set out in the letter it provided to Stowar. By requiring her to sign that letter, the company had done nothing to suggest that she wouldn't have been paid in accordance with its terms. Stowar wasn't expected to know exactly what the legislation said about her termination and it was reasonable for her to presume that she was "entitled" to the five months' pay she was offered.


Employees should obtain legal advice before signing important legal documents, such as a letter of termination.

As a result, it did not matter that Telehop's generous offer was actually made in error. The court ruled that once Stowar signed the letter, there was a binding agreement compelling Telehop to pay her in accordance with its terms.

Whether you are an employer or an employee, you can glean valuable lessons from how this case was handled:

- Employees should be encouraged to obtain legal advice before signing important legal documents, such as a letter of termination. Even if the employee doesn't wish to see a lawyer, make sure that he or she is given that opportunity anyway.
- If you are an employer, never pay any termination or severance monies without receiving a release in exchange.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

Workology in brief

POLL More than half the U.S. employers in a new poll say they plan to hire full-time employees in the next 12 months, according to research released Tuesday. REUTERS

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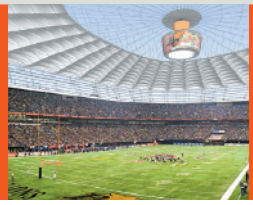
Former NBA ref arrested again

Disgraced former NBA referee Tim Donaghy is back behind bars, accused of violating his federal probation by not showing up for work, the U.S. Marshals Service said. Donaghy, 42, was being held without bond a day after his arrest at a halfway house in Tampa where he was finishing his 15-month sentence for gambling charges. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sports



Province pulling plug?

The $365-million renovations planned for BC Place which was to feature a new retractable roof for the stadium, shown at left in an artist's rendering, could be in jeopardy. Reports say the province may pull the plug on the upgrades as a way of managing budget-deficit problems. For an overview of what this may mean for the Vancouver Whitecaps, visit It's Called Football at metronews.ca/blogs

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA

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From fan to phenom

LAURENCE HEINEN
for Metro Canada

When the Canadian men's hockey team won gold at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Sidney Crosby celebrated as a fan like the rest of us.

"At the time you felt so lucky to witness that," said Crosby after practising on a line with Jarome Iginla and Rick Nash for the second straight day at Team Canada's orientation camp in Calgary. "To see the whole country celebrate the way they did, it was pretty awesome."

Four years later, Crosby was well on his way to a 102-point campaign as a rookie forward with the Pittsburgh Penguins, but that still didn't earn him a spot on Team Canada for the 2006 Games in Turin, Italy.

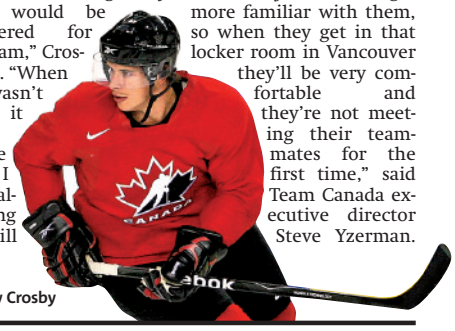
"Never in a million years would I have thought my name would be considered for that team," Crosby said. "When I wasn't there, it wasn't a huge shock. I was really young and still had a lot to prove."

Fresh off of a Stanley Cup championship with the Penguins, Crosby has his sights set on helping lead Canada to gold next February in Vancouver at the 2010 Games.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be in the Olympics in your home country," said Crosby, who realizes there will be tremendous pressure on Canada to rebound from a seventh-place showing four years ago. "That's to be expected. If anything, it should be helping as far as motivation and making sure that guys are full of energy."

The orientation camp will help Crosby get familiarized with players he'll potentially be teaming up with six months from now.

"The important thing about having the camp is guys like Sidney can get to meet the Jaromes and get more familiar with them, so when they get in that locker room in Vancouver they'll be very comfortable and they're not meeting their teammates for the first time," said Team Canada executive director Steve Yzerman.



Sidney Crosby

Reinsdorf out, NHL in on Coyotes saga

HOCKEY Another day, another round of stunning plot twists in the Phoenix Coyotes bankruptcy soap opera leading into the Sept. 10 auction for the team.

Chicago sports mogul Jerry Reinsdorf, the NHL's preferred bidder for the franchise, dropped his bid yesterday because he couldn't work out an arena lease.

So, seemingly desperate to keep the Coyotes out of the hands of Canadian billionaire Jim Balsillie, the NHL has stepped up and submitted its own bid for the team. The league has made an as-yet unknown offer for the Coyotes, with plans to flip the team "to a third party outside of bankruptcy."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Sports in brief

BASEBALL The New York Mets traded reliever Billy Wagner to the Boston Red Sox yesterday. In return, the Mets got two players to be named from the AL wild-card leaders. Wagner ranks sixth all-time with 385 career saves. He joins a bullpen led by closer Jonathan Papelbon.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Nissan sees the light

Nissan is working on a project to study the development of a quick-charging system for electric vehicles (EV) using solar panels. The program is designed to maximize the use of renewable energy for EVs, provide power during electricity outages, and reduce demand on grid power. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Metro Drive

Pet's best rides

U.S. pet safety organization Bark Buckle UP has named the top ten pet-friendly vehicles currently available. They are, in alphabetical order: Ford Flex, GMC Acadia, Hyundai Tucson, Jeep Liberty, Kia Borrego, Mazda5, Mitsubishi Outlander, Subaru Tribeca and Volvo XC70. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

Genesis Coupe: Rear-drive beauty

JUSTIN PRITCHARD
for Metro Canada

During a recent summertime hot-spell, I visited a local creamery for a giant ice-cream cone. While my artery-clogging snack was being prepared, I didn't notice the crowd gathering in the parking lot around the electric blue Hyundai Genesis Coupe 2.0T I drove there.

Turns out this was the wrong car to try and eat an ice cream beside. The dozen or so folks standing around had plenty of questions — and my treat turned into a drippy mess before I could answer them all.

If you want the scoop on the Genesis Coupe, please read this FAQ. That way, other Genesis drivers can enjoy their summertime ice-cream in peace.

Ever sexy. Is that really a Hyundai?

It is indeed! In fact, it's probably the sexiest car Korea's ever built. It's a real looker — very wide, low, menacing, and detailed, with a fantastic stance.

How's it go?

Not bad at all. The turbo four cylinder is a decent entry-level engine, though it's far from a head-pinning drag racer. Just don't go picking on your buddy with the Mustang GT.

The four cylinder unit is very responsive coming out of a light, and the turbo works nicely to increase responsiveness when cruising at a good highway clip too. Unfortunately, the engine is no pinnacle of refinement.

Is that rear-wheel drive?

Yes! If you're looking for an affordable rear-drive sport compact with a back seat, it's one of your few options.

What's the interior like?

Hyundai's created a genuine coupe cockpit in here. It's nice to look at, driver-centric without being crowded, and surprisingly roomy. The wide body means plenty of knee and shoulder room, and the back seats can actually be used by human beings.

What about the handling?

A nice balance between sportiness and comfort, though not quite an ultra-precise asphalt scalpel. The Genesis rides commendably and delivers the feel of balance and sharpness that attracts enthusiasts to rear-drive cars.

OMG, I like, totally want one. How much?

With the four-cylinder, pricing starts at $24,495.

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Matiz Creative unleashed
GM Daewoo has launched its all-new global minicar, the Matiz Creative, which will be sold in over 150 markets worldwide including North America. METRO NEWS SERVICES

A brave new world of wheels

AutoPilot

When it comes to automotive design, are you a modernist or a folk singer?

(How many folk singers does it take to screw in a light bulb? Four. One to screw in the light bulb. Three to sing about how much better was the old light bulb.)

Like most people, you're probably a bit of both. So designers are constantly trying to walk that line between imagining a fresh look, but one that also embodies traditions that everybody loves and expects.

The automaker that had the hardest time walking this line of late has been Jaguar. Until quite recently, its designs didn't stray much from those first envisioned by its founder, William Lyons.

Now take a look at the just-revealed all-new XJ sedan. I'm not sure most people would instantly recognize this new XJ sedan as a "Jaguar."

But Jaguar had to make this move. It could no longer afford to be only curators of old-world charm.

I think the best scenario for redesigning a nameplate: You notice a car parked car in the distance — something new and exciting. You don't know what it is, but you like it. As you get closer, say 10 paces, you wonder if it could be the new "Wasfinger?" When you get right up to it, and before you see any badges, you know for sure it's the new Wasfinger. You really liked the old Wasfinger, but this one's even better.

You can definitely say Cadillac has been successful in reinventing itself in an all-new, modern idiom.

The all-new Jaguar XJ breaks free of the marque's old-world charm with a modernist design.

The rear section of the CTS, for example, with its vertical tail lamps and creased fender line, is all at once good looking, modern, and reminiscent of Cadillac tail fins of the 1950s.

I also like Lincoln's new design direction. It's distinctive and substantial and very American, and not too overpowering with heritage cues. You have to use cues sparingly, like perfume.

I think that was the problem with Pontiac design — too much reliance on cues, like red interior lights, body cladding, and that split front grille, and not much else. Whew!

Finally, I think it doesn't matter how much retro you pile into a car design, as long as the bones are good. All good auto design seems to be characterized by only a few crucial elements: proportion; form following function; an aerodynamic look, and wheels that are pushed to the corners of the body and that fill up the wheel arches.

"All good auto design seems to be characterized by only a few crucial elements: proportion; form following function; aerodynamic look, and wheels that are pushed to the corners of the body."

On the latter point, I once asked hot-rod legend, Chip Foose, if there was anything that didn't look better with bigger wheels and a slightly lowered body. He thought for a few seconds, then said, "I dunno, maybe a house."

Michael Goetz has been writing about cars and editing automotive publications for over 20 years. He lives in Toronto with his family and a neglected 1967 Jaguar E-type.

Chrysler to keep on PT Cruisin'

PRODUCTION Chrysler Group LLC announced recently that production of the Chrysler PT Cruiser will continue. The Chrysler Group Toluca (Mexico) Assembly Plant — the exclusive home of the Cruiser — will continue to build the quality-proven, versatility packaged and "too cool to categorize" small car.

"The heritage-styled Chrysler PT Cruiser continues to be a global success story," said Peter Fong of Chrysler. "With more than 1.3 million PT Cruisers sold in more than 60 countries since 2000, we're excited to announce we're re-energizing the iconic and award-winning PT Cruiser."

Chrysler introduced the segment-busting Chrysler PT Cruiser nearly 10 years ago. Its one-of-a-kind exterior styling and Swiss Army knife-like interior flexibility, offered at a compact car price, redefined the small-car segment and became an instant hit with consumers.

The PT Cruiser has been a hit with consumers since 2000.

The latest flavour, the 2009 Chrysler PT Dream Cruiser 5 marked the 14th customized version of the segment-busting small car.

FROM CARGUIDE

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Food on the fly

Travellers with food restrictions can run into problems when they have to explain their dietary needs in a foreign language. Online service njoy-translations.com has an array of diet-related translation tools, providing phrases for food allergies, special diets and more in 55 languages. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Month of beer festivals

This September, Colorado will host not one but three beer-related festivals. There's the 16th annual Telluride Blues & Brews Festival, telluridebblues.com, from Sept. 18-20; the Denver Beer Fest, denver.org/denverbeerfest, from Sept. 18-27; and the Great American Beer Festival, greatamericanbeerfestival.com, also held in Denver, from Sept. 24-26. METRO NEWS SERVICES

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

Ten out of 10

At Winnipeg's iconic Fort Garry Hotel, Ten Spa offers up a luxurious experience

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

As I walk into Ten Spa, on the tenth floor of Winnipeg's landmark Fort Garry Hotel, what pops into my mind is that it's surprisingly elegant.

I'd heard only good things, but hadn't expected it to be so upscale. As far as spas go, it's less what one might expect in Winnipeg and more like New York meets Vegas.

In the lounge, white leather settees (some grouped together and surrounded by gauzy white sheers for semi-privacy), rich dark woods and a wall of multi-toned brown and beige mosaic tiles set a sophisticated environment.

While awaiting services — the full gamut of massages, bodywork and esthetics offered in 11 treatments rooms plus a mani/pedi area overlooking the cityscape and the historic Forks Market — guests snack on dried fruit, cookies, muffins and dates.

A spa menu of more substantial offerings is available, and champagne and dessert can be pre-ordered.

Modern and stylish, the spa is indeed a beautiful space, but it's the large and lovely mosaic-tiled co-ed hammam and the hot-air bathing ritual that really gives Ten its point of distinction.

Massage therapist Mario Digirolamo escorts me to the heated hammam tea room to acclimatize. Here, in this tiny, comfy space, guests warm themselves while nibbling on Turkish sweets and sipping traditional mint-flavoured Moroccan tea. This is also where the spa robe is exchanged for a traditional pestemal — think a checkered table-cloth that you wrap around your torso — before entering the hammam. Wearing the pestemal, you shower and give yourself a sea salt scrub before lying down on a raised and heated marble platform for the wash with a traditional handmade olive oil-based soap.

That's followed by a brisk brushing with a gommage, which is a rough glove, then another scrub with soap. Overhead, tiny (read: tasteful) twinkling lights give the feeling that you're staring up at the night sky from someplace with one very humid climate. Soft strains of Middle Eastern music add to the experience.

Read more on page 17 ››

Ten Spa boasts a large, mosaic-tiled co-ed hammam.

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Flutter by Natural History Museum

LONDON London's Natural History Museum has come alive this summer with a Butterfly Jungle exhibition, running until Sept. 27. The show gives visitors the chance to talk like a spider, hang out like a sloth and swing with the monkeys as they journey from the forest floor to the jungle canopy, meeting some of the creatures that live there along the way.

Visitors will travel through the foliage and heat of the rainforest, meeting inhabitants such as Charlie the green iguana and Sumo the ornate horned frog. At the end of this journey they will reach the highlight of the exhibition: a walk among hundreds of live moths and butterflies from all over the world.

The Butterfly Jungle is aimed at families and schools with children aged between five and 11, but is entertaining for people of any age. REUTERS

National Parks documentary

Fans of documentary maker Ken Burns will want to keep an eye out for his new six-episode series, The National Parks: America's Best Idea, which will begin airing on PBS stations starting Sept. 27. For more details, see pbs.org/nationalparks. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Top 10 record-breaking hotels

For travellers who like a hotel with a superlative attached, online hotel specialist hotels.com has come with a list of record-breaking hotels. All have the "-est" factor.

Dubai's Burj Al Arab is the world's tallest hotel.

1 World's Tallest Hotel — Burj Al Arab, Dubai: Currently the tallest operating hotel in the world until it is surpassed by Dubai's Rose Tower later this year, the Burj Al Arab stands 321 metres high. A self-rated seven-star hotel built on a man-made island 280 metres from shore, Burj Al Arab also boasts its own Rolls Royce fleet, Versace bedspreads, and helicopter landing platform.

2 World's Largest Hotel (by no. of rooms) — The Palazzo Resort Hotel & Casino, Las Vegas: The Palazzo Resort Hotel & Casino, which operates under the same license as The Venetian hotel next door, has 8,108 rooms combined. The hotel is like a mini city, with a large selection of restaurants, fashion stores, its own casino, and seven pools.

3 World's Oldest Hotel — Hoshi Ryokan, Komatsu, Japan: The Hoshi Ryokan has been in operation for over 1,300 years. The 100-room hotel has been run by the same family for 46 generations.

4 World's Most Expensive Hotel Room — Royal Villa at Grand Resort Lagonissi, Athens, Greece: Featuring a butler, chef and pianist, the Royal Villa at Grand Resort Lagonissi is the world's most expensive hotel room at $50,000 a night. The room overlooks the Aegean Sea, which you can view from a private pool with a hydro massage device. The resort also has a private Lear jet.

5 World's Most Expensive Hotel to Build — Emirates Palace, Abu Dhabi: The Emirates Palace in Abu Dhabi, which opened in 2005, cost over $3 billion to build with silver, gold and marble used throughout the hotel and 1,002 Swarovski crystal chandeliers.

6 World's Largest Hotel Room — Royal Suite in the Grand Hills Hotel Spa, Broummana, Lebanon: The Royal Suite in the Grand Hills Hotel & Spa is set over six floors for a total 8,000 square metres. Half is living space, and the rest two swimming pools, a garden, terrace and pavilions.

7 World's Coldest Hotel — Icehotel, Jukkasjarvi, Sweden: The Icehotel has rooms built entirely from ice and snow, decorated with handcrafted ice art and sculptures, an ice chapel licensed for marriages and baptisms, and two restaurants. Activities include snowmobile trips, northern lights tours, and dog sled tours.

8 World's Highest Hotel (floor height) — Park Hyatt, Shanghai, China: The Park Hyatt in Shanghai occupies floors 79 to 93 of the 101-storey Shanghai World Finance Center with views over the Huangpu River and the city skyline.

9 World's Highest Hotel (altitude above sea level) — Hotel Everest View, Nepal: The Hotel Everest View is 3,880 metres above sea level and is set in the Sagarmatha National Park. All rooms have views of Mount Everest, standing at 8,848 metres, and the only direct access is by chartered helicopter.

10 World's Most Eco-Friendly Hotel — Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa, Queensland, Australia: Set in the world's oldest rainforest, Daintree Eco Lodge & Spa has 15 villas nestled inside the Daintree Rainforest, and is committed to sustainable tourism. Practices in place include using solar power, low-energy lights and an organic farm to grow its own produce. REUTERS

>> Continued from page 16

Every few minutes a spew of steam keeps the hammam at a sweltering 45 C. If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the hammam. Seriously.

Suddenly, a cool wave washes over me — literally — as Maria gently dumps water from a traditional Turkish container, called a tas, over my soaped-up skin. Even if you don't like to be doused gently with cool water, it's so hot in here you'll welcome it.

Then, there's a scheduled "time out" to rehydrate and you can take the break back in the tea room or in the hammam itself with a bottle of iced water or a cool shower.

Next, in one of the hammam's private rooms, there's another scrub with olive oil soap followed by a massage. One of the massage "tools" is a fine cotton pillow filled with air and olive oil suds. Image how it might feel to be massaged with a cloud — very unusual. A few therapist-guided stretches complete the hammam part of the treatment.

The lounge at Ten Spa features white leather settees with gauzy white privacy sheers.

Then there's a 20-minute "relax" in the Quiet Room, which is elegantly cozy with pearl grey walls, candlelight and more white leather furnishings roomy enough for guests to take a nap. Those who have just emerged from the hammam are served an ayran (a mix of yogurt, sea salt and spring water) to help replenish the electrolytes lost along with toxins in the heat of the hammam.

Feeling good — and squeaky clean — I leave Ten Spa to explore the rest of this pleasantly surprising city.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer and editor of traveltowellness.com

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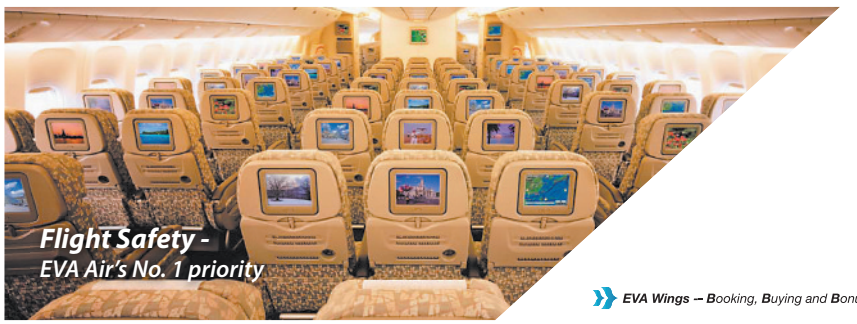

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Holiday numbers decline

Industry experts predict that the number of passengers on U.S. airlines during the Labour Day holiday will likely decline by 3.5 per cent for domestic travel and three per cent in international travel this year as the recession erodes budgets, but planes will be full and fares are inching higher. REUTERS

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Sierra High Route takes hikers far off beaten path

Hiking through a trail-less wilderness where cell-phones don't work and help is days away may not be everyone's idea of a great vacation.

But for those willing to find their own way and do the hard work of climbing into the high country, the Range of Light offers the rich reward of a constant succession of jaw-dropping landscapes.

The eastern California mountain chain, made famous by the 19th-century naturalist John Muir and photographer Ansel Adams, is seen at its best from the Sierra High Route, a 314-kilometre, south-to-north journey that visits the range's peaks, valleys, lakes and gorges while avoiding popular tourist areas.

Steve Roper, author of the only guidebook on the route, was so concerned about preserving the wilderness experience that he devised an itinerary that avoids trails for about half of its length.

In trail-less sections, hikers must use map and a compass (or GPS, if they insist) to navigate rocky passes, cross the snow fields that linger long into summer, wade through rivers and creeks, and pick their way through fields of boulders known as taluses.

And they won't get a whole lot of help from Roper, since he deliberately avoids detailed route descriptions so that hikers get the maximum reward from their wilderness experience by blazing their own trail.

"We are not sheep," Roper said. "We want to have some pride in finding our own way. Route-finding is one of the great pleasures."

He conceded that he has had some complaints from readers that his route descriptions are not clear enough since the book, published by The Mountaineers Books, first appeared in 1982, but he makes no apology for making his readers take responsibility for their own navigation.

"It makes you think," said Roper, 68, who has been wandering the Sierras since 1954. "It's good for humans to think."

REUTERS

JON HURDEL/REUTERS

A hiker makes his way across the Sierra High Route, a high-altitude journey through California's Sierra Nevada mountains.

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Abdul joins Divas
With her American Idol judging career behind her, Paula Abdul has inked her first post-Simon gig. Abdul will be hosting VH1's Divas special, which will air Sept. 17 and features Kelly Clarkson, Miley Cyrus, Leona Lewis and others. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Entertainment

Most dangerous
Jessica Biel has been named the most dangerous celebrity online by security technology company McAfee. The company says searches for Biel are more likely to result in viruses than searches for other celebrities. USMAGAZINE.COM

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Return of 3-D thrills

Film format has produced its share of gimmicks and gags

PHIL BROWN
for Metro Canada

With 3-D movies slowly taking over multiplexes and glasses-free 3-D televisions only a few years away, it seems like theformat is entering a renaissance.

Given all the hype surrounding 3-D, it's easy to forget that it was once regarded as little more than a gimmick used to bump up the grosses of B-grade sci-fi and horror movies.

This weekend's The Final Destination returns 3-D back to its roots by enlivening a cheesy horror film with visual 3-D gags. With that in mind, we take a look back at some of the great — and not-so-great — horror films and thrillers to be released in 3-D.

The Creature From The Black Lagoon (1954) This classic Universal monster movie has been a staple of costume parties and horror-themed toys for years. But it's often forgotten that the original film was one of the great 3-D hits of the '50s. Though the monster itself is still one of the most memorable to ever be put on screen, the movie is probably best viewed today for nostalgia and camp value.

Dial M For Murder (1954) Alfred Hitchcock briefly dabbled in 3-D with this classic stage adaptation. Rather than simply using 3-D to prod at the audience with pointy objects, Hitchcock used it subtly to create a picture box image that recreated the appearance of watching a stage play. Hitchcock's careful depth-focused framing is quite atmospheric, and yes the master of suspense does include a few pop-up effects to make the audience jump (how could he resist?). Even though the movie represents one of the most effective examples of 3-D filmmaking, it's rarely screened in it's original format.

Final Destination returns 3-D back to its roots by enlivening a cheesy horror film with visual 3-D gags.

The Final Destination hits theatres on Friday

Andy Warhol's Flesh For Frankenstein (1973) This Andy Warhol produced, Paul Morrissey directed trashy horror flick is a self-conscious camp classic. Every scene features hilariously convoluted dialogue, ridiculously over the top acting, and buckets of fake blood. The quite funny and oddly sexualized Frankenstein reboot should really be seen in any format, but thrives in 3-D where it's just that much sillier. You haven't lived until you've seen Udo Kier deliver his endless dying monologue while a giant spike pokes through his chest, dangling his heart over the audience. Priceless.

Jaws 3-D (1983) and Friday The 13th 3-D (1982) For a while, horror franchises couldn't resist releasing their third film outings in 3-D (the title change was just too easy). Jaws 3 and Friday The 13th Part 3 are probably the most famous examples. Both movies are filled with 3-D gags and little else, but have barely been seen in 3-D since the '80s. Instead, generations of kids have simply wondered why stuff keeps jutting out towards the camera for no apparent reason.

Movie **feature**

HBO mulls new show based on sex column

TV HBO is considering a show based on Savage Love, the sex advice column syndicated in alternative weeklies.

In his blog for Seattle's The Stranger, columnist Dan Savage said he has been working on "a non-airing presentation pilot for HBO" that would be called Savage Love.

Savage said the possible show "will focus on current events and cultural trends with sex as the filter."

He added: "I'm hoping to bring a new kind of conversation to TV about sex — an honest conversation, one that's informed without being (too) wonky, funny without being (too) cruel, sexy without being (too) cheesy. Basically, my sex advice column — but on the teevee!" REUTERS

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(your story must be min 50 to max 100 words)

Here is this week's top diarrhea disaster:

"At my daughter's wedding, everyone was dressed in white. While giving my daughter away I felt like I had to pass gas. Well I passed gas alright, only it wasn't gas. Guests at the wedding behind me just started snickering as the back of the white pants turned colour. I just smiled and kept on as if nothing had happened through the rest of the service." - *L. Higgins*

Submit your story today at metronews.ca

No purchase necessary. One entry per person. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes August 26, 2009 at 11:59 pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details visit www.metronews.ca

Imodium

Avatar unveiled

Reaction to Cameron's latest recalls Titanic forecasts

James Cameron has raised the curtain a bit on Avatar, his 3-D journey into the future of filmmaking.

The first public look at footage from his upcoming sci-fi epic was decked out in the latest techno trappings: an online trailer, offered in HD, and 16 minutes of footage on 3-D Imax screens. Inevitably, they were met by a chorus of tweets and Facebook updates offering instant rushes to judgment.

Although Cameron is determined to be cutting-edge, the weekend chatter sounded like so much deja vu. New media might be edging out old media, but the conversation surrounding Avatar isn't all that different from the talk that preceded the director's Titanic 12 years ago.

Consider Avatar first. When the 2-D trailer went online Thursday, demand was instantaneous: 20th Century Fox reported that Avatar quickly became the most downloaded trailer at Apple.com, where it triggered a record four million streams its first day.

The Twitterverse speaks

- I saw the #Avatar preview too and I've seen Ferngully. Comparing them is like comparing a '99 Cabernet to a boxed white zin. —@wriorprncs
- #Avatar previews were amazing. trailer does it no justice. — @dougienesses
- I saw the #Avatar trailer on the big screen today. THIS is what all the fuss is about? Final Fantasy Movie 2.0? —@doloresm

The fans immediately began weighing in. On Twitter, there were plenty of exclamations of "Amazing!"; there also were cries of "CG crap!" The first hundred or so instant pundits who compared the footage to such animated fantasies as Delgo and FernGully were sort of amusing; the next few thousand or so, not so much.

Because the Web commentariat specializes in snark, sites like Spout.com quickly threw up pages like "10 Movies Avatar Unfortunately Resembles." The Na'vi, the blue-skinned, 10-foot-tall natives of Cameron's imagined planet Pandora, drew comparisons to Jar Jar Binks, the universally reviled CG comic relief in Star Wars: The Phantom Menace.

The run-up to Avatar's Dec. 18 debut is more than a little reminiscent of the establishment skepticism that preceded Titanic.

Back then, movie sites like AintItCoolNews were in their infancy, and mainstream media was firmly in control of the discourse. It snickered that everyone already knew Titanic's ending. It became fixated on the $200 million-plus budget. It seized upon mishaps like a bout of food poisoning on the Nova Scotia set as evidence of production woes. Assessing the movie's commercial prospects, Entertainment Weekly sniffed, "No A-list box-office stars."

REUTERS

primetime 8/26/09

VA	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime	251	308	3 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy!	Dragon's Den (CC)		The Tudors (CC) (DVS)		CBC News: The National (N)		(:05) The Hour
	255	358	6 JOY	E! News (N)	The Insider	Psych (N) (CC)		D. Richards	Kendra (CC)	Women	Women	News
	254	-	8 M	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Omni News: Mandarin Edition		News: Cantonese Edition		Omni News: Punjabi Edition		Metropia
	250	321	9 CTV	etalk (CC)	Dance	Big Bang Th	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds "Memoriam"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (CC)		CTV News
	-	-	10 OMNI	The Daily	Frasier (CC)	Stargate SG-1 "Demons"		Third Watch "Transformed"		Scrubs (CC)	Discovering	New Day
	252	336	11 GTV	Entertainment	ET Canada	Wipeout (N) (CC)		(:02) In Plain Sight (CC)		(:02) In Plain Sight (CC)		News
	256	389	12 VI	The Road to Avonlea		America's Got Talent (N)		America's Got Talent (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		A News (N)
	253	359	13 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Goode Family	Surviving Sub.	Less-Kind	Less-Kind	Murdoch Mysteries "Power"		The CityNews
	-	-	14 CW	Deal-No Deal	Deal-No Deal	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Frasier (CC)
	289	381	15 CBS	Entertainment	The Insider	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds "Memoriam"		CSI: NY "Veritas" (CC)		KIRO News
	287	379	16 NBC	Evening Mag.	Inside Edition	America's Got Talent (CC)		America's Got Talent (CC)		Law & Order: SVU		KING 5 News
	602	568	19 W	Style by Jury	Friends (CC)	Grocery Bag	Grocery Bag	Love It or List It		The Good Witch (2008, Drama) Catherine Bell.		
	288	380	21 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	Wipeout (N) (CC)		(:02) Crash Course (CC)		(:01) Primetime: Crime (CC)		KOMO 4 News
	-	-	23 KVOS	M*A*S*H	Seinfeld	The Prince and the Surfer ★★ (1999) Jennifer O'Neill.				King	Still Standing	Scrubs (CC)
	291	383	27 PBS	Steves Europe	West Coast	Great Performances "Harlem in Montmartre"			Parks	Wide Angle (N) (CC)		MI-5 (CC)
	290	382	28 FOX	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Bones "The Girl in the Mask"		Bones (CC)		Q13 FOX News at Ten (N)		Family Guy
	-	364	45 PBS	Performances	Wide Angle (N) (CC)		Being Served	Tavis Smiley	Charlie Rose (N) (CC)		Parks	Performances
	296	654	64 SBK	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Punk'd (CC)	South Park	Cheers (CC)	Half & Half	Work Home	Family Court	Paid Program
	298	653	65 TLA	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	America's Next Top Model		America's Next Top Model		KTLA Prime News (CC)		Friends (CC)
	295	651	66 WGN	WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)		Family Guy	Two/Half Men	According-Jim	Sex and-City	Friends (CC)	Friends (CC)	My Wife-Kids
	297	652	67 WPX	PIX News at Ten Tong. (N)		Two/Half Men	Friends (CC)	Sex and-City	According-Jim	Frasier (CC)	Frasier (CC)	Odd Couple
	199	311	76 STR	CTV News	NTV Latenight News		Late Show-Letterman		Late Late Show		Will & Grace	Seinfeld
news	502	390	26 NW	I, Psychopath (CC)		CBC News: The National (N)		CBC News: The National		I, Psychopath (CC)		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)				Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (CC)		Cooper 360
sports	407	419	22 RSP	MLB Baseball Oakland Athletics at Seattle Mariners. From Safeco Field in Seattle. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected (Live)		Sportsnet
	400	400	30 TSN	SportsCentre (Live) (CC)			Off the Record	2009 World Series of Poker		2009 World Series of Poker		SportsCentre
	411	457	49 OLN	Ghost Hunters (CC)		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Survivorman (CC)		Ghost Hunters (CC)		Bounty Hunter
	410	403	54 SCR	Score Tonight		Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score	Final Score
	417	406	55 SC	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Thunder	Pinks Out	Pass Time	Pass Time	Wrecked
	416	409	144 GLF	Fútbol MLS		Toronto	Gol TV News	MLS Weekly	Toronto	Paid Program	Gol TV News	Gol TV News
family	552	543	25 YTV	Drake & Josh	Prank Patrol	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	Survive This	Adrenaline	Falcon Beach (CC)		Mystery Hnt.
	555	545	50 TEL	Jimmy Two	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN (CC)	Futurama	American Dad	Chicken	Father	Moral Orel
	557	541	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	553	546	53 TRE	Comfy Couch	Big & Small	Max & Ruby	Babar (CC)	Backyard	Ni Hao	Go, Diego, Go!	Franklin	Comfy Couch
cable variety	268	354	5 KNO	Louisbourg Under Siege		Himalaya With Michael Palin		Sorceress: Kiri Te Kanawa		Yo-Yo Ma: Inspired by Bach		Hockey
	575	583	20 CMT	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Paul Brandt-Heroes		Home Imp.	Home Imp.	Reba (CC)	Reba (CC)	Hope & Faith
	570	580	24 MM	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	One Tree Hill (CC)		Making His Band		Video on Trial	Video on Trial	Spotlight
	600	564	25 H&G	House	House	Holmes	Holmes	Hid Potential	Property	City	The Stagers	House
	615	520	31 A&E	Criss Angel Mindfreak (N)		Criss Angel Mindfreak (CC)		Dog the Bounty Hunter (CC)		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Criss Angel
	628	584	32 SPKE	(6:18) Star Wars: Episode III -- Revenge of the Sith ★★★ (2005)					CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		I Bet You Will	Disorderly
	521	560	34 TLC	Toddlers & Tiaras (N) (CC)		Lottery Changed My Life		Truth Be Told (CC)		Toddlers & Tiaras (CC)		Restorer Guy
	616	522	53 SHO	The Outer Limits (CC)		The Guard "The Big Day"		Time and Again (2007, Drama) Brooke Burns. (CC)				House (CC)
	620	523	70 BVO	Curveball: W.P. Kinsella		Law & Order "The Troubles"		Without a Trace "Blood Out"		Richard III ★★★ (1996) Ian McKellen. (CC)		
	601	562	41 SLC	End of Leash	End of Leash	ET Canada	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives OC		Trading Spouses		Biggest Loser
	520	505	42 DIS	Mayday "Phantom Strike"		Daily Planet (CC)		Mayday "Phantom Strike"		Mighty Ships		Catch
	522	506	44 HIS	NCIS "About Face" (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		Ice Road Truckers (CC)		NCIS "About Face" (CC)		Sea Hunters
	627	528	45 SPC	Stormworld	Stormworld	Stargate SG-1 (CC) (DVS)		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Star Trek: Voyager (CC)		Star Trek: Ent.
	294	650	57 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	House-Payne	Sex and-City	Sex and-City	Man of the House ★★ (1995) Chevy Chase.		
	619	525	48 TROP	The Crow: Stairway to Heaven		What	What	Inside Hollywood (CC)		Raymond	Raymond	Raymond
	603	561	52 FN	The Next Food Network Star		Opening Soon	Opening Soon	Unwrapped	Unwrapped	Diner, Drive-In	Diner, Drive-In	Next Star
	626	547	57 COM	Air Farce	22 Minutes	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Jon Dore	Jon Dore	Russell Brand
	320	621	60 CEN	(6:25) The Last Casino (2004)		Not Easily Broken ★★ (2009) Premiere. (CC)			(:45) Towelhead ★★ (2007, Drama) Summer Bishil. (CC)			
	581	566	101 MTV	The Real World (N) (CC)		MTV Live	After	16 and Pregnant Adoption.		The Real World (CC)		MTV Live
	261	394	102 V	Recreat. Eden	Prenup	Poltergeist: The Legacy		Project X ★★ (1987) Matthew Broderick, Helen Hunt. (CC)				Paid Program
	-	-	106 MUL	Banquet	Kingdom-Wind	Van. Nights	Iranian Pop	Sabor Latino		Sabor Musical	Temas	Patrol World

critics' corner

Criminal Minds

Looking back on your childhood is usually filled with happy memories of pony rides, birthday parties and playing catch in the backyard. But not for Dr. Reid (Matthew Gray Gubler). This week, the good doctor embarks on his own investigation into the murder of a boy in Las Vegas years earlier that he strongly believes has a connection to his own childhood. Jane Lynch ("Two and a Half Men") guest stars as Dr. Reid's mother, Diana, in "Memoriam." 9 PM on CBS CTV

Crash Course

What is it about obstacle courses that seems to have captured the imagination of producers and viewers? Unlike "Wipeout," in which players must traverse a hilarious obstacle course on foot, this new series features couples competing in extreme driving challenges across what the network is calling an "outrageous" obstacle course for a cash prize. 9:02 PM on ABC

In brief

TV Reality production company RDF aims to launch the first interactive animated series in the United States. The firm behind such shows as Fox's Don't Forget the Lyrics is designing a TV series in which viewers can participate in the onscreen action. In the series, Sleuths, viewers would customize their own avatars, which will appear onscreen during the show's live telecast. A quiz question will be asked three times per episode, and viewers will text their answers. Those who answer correctly continue on; a wrong answer means elimination.

MOVIES Hancock 2 is taking shape. Columbia Pictures has hired screenwriters Adam Fierro and Glen Mazzara to pen the sequel to the Will Smith superhero movie, which grossed $624 million worldwide last year. The original producing team is expected to return. Plot details are being kept under wraps. REUTERS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt

Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

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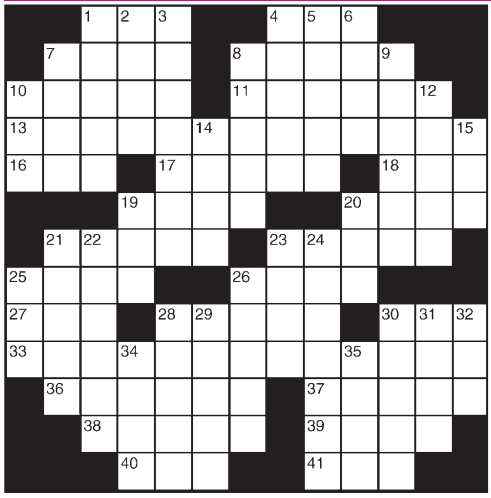
Take Five



Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

9			7		1			8
	7		9		4		5	
		3				6		
		7	8		2	5		
5								7
		1	6		5	3		
		4				2		
	2		4		9		1	
8			3		7			6

ACROSS

1 Star player, for short
4 Banned bug spray
7 No stay-at-home
8 Matlock's workplace
10 Cole Porter's "Gay" city
11 Like a lot
13 Square 1
16 Aviv preceder
17 Regions
18 Moving vehicle
19 Say it isn't so
20 Lexicographer's bk.
21 Gets dirty
23 Crouch
25 Actress Jessica
26 Libertine
27 Regret
28 Gaggle member
30 "Skip to My –"
33 1996 Ewan McGregor movie
36 Word group
37 Goose egg
38 Twine fiber
39 Initial stake
40 Timid
41 Opener at Vegas?

DOWN

1 Aesopian ending
2 Swerve
3 Knot for human consumption?
4 Evade
5 Writes a Dear John letter
6 Small combo
7 Fence opening
8 Shrewd
9 Miscellaneous data
10 Calif. hours
12 Make into law
14 Charged bits
15 Potent stick
19 24 horas
20 Payable
21 Soup eater's noise
22 Spelling methods?
23 Average
24 100 centavos, in Guatemala
25 Illustrations
26 Force away
28 Grind your teeth
29 English composition
30 Airy airs
31 A single time
32 "Yecch!"
34 Rainbow
35 Turner or Fey

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

W	O	R	D		M	O	A		M	A	Y	I		
A	L	O	E		E	G	G		U	S	E	S		
S	I	B	S		C	R	O	N	K	I	T	E		
H	O	S	P	I	C	E		A	L	F	I	E		
			O	V	A		D	R	U					
T	E	S	T	Y		C	O	C	K	P	I	T		
I	R	K			M	O	W			E	T	A		
C	R	I	C	K	E	T		T	O	A	S	T		
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On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Apple-Stuffed Pork Chops

INGREDIENTS:

1 tbsp (15 ml) chopped onion
1/4 cup (50 ml) butter
3 cups (750 ml) soft bread cubes
2 cups (500 ml) finely chopped apples
1/4 cup (50 ml) finely chopped celery
2 tsp (10 ml) minced fresh parsley
3/4 tsp (4 ml) salt, divided
6 bone-in pork loin chops
1/8 tsp (0.5 ml) pepper
1 tbsp (15 ml) vegetable oil

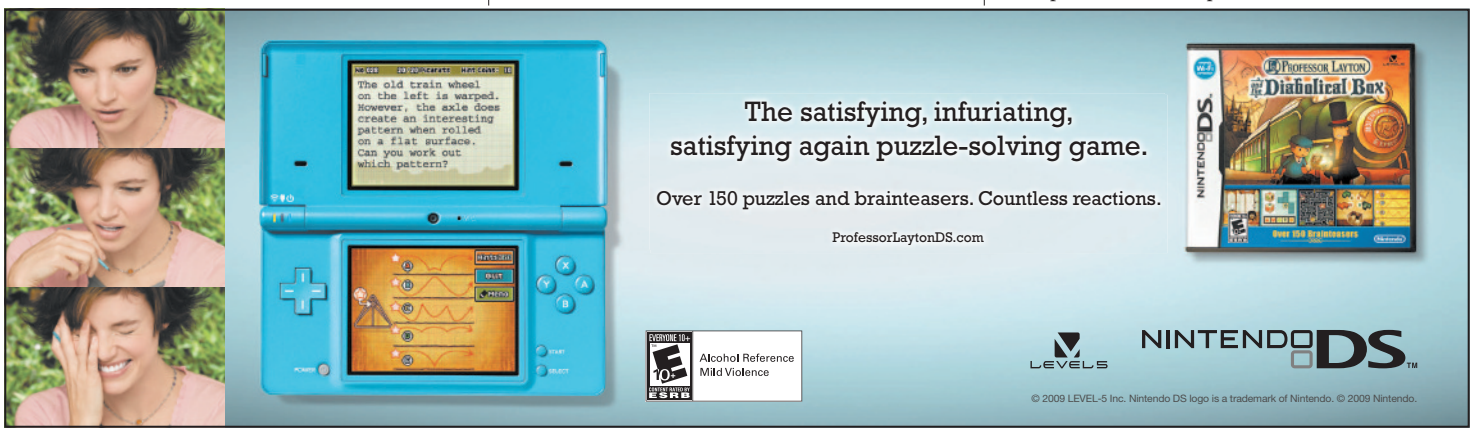
METHOD:

1. In small skillet, sauté onion in butter until tender. Remove from heat; add bread cubes, apples, celery, parsley and 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt.
2. Cut pocket in each chop by making horizontal cut through meat almost to bone. Sprinkle inside and outside with pepper and remaining salt. Spoon stuffing loosely into pockets.
3. In large skillet, brown chops on both sides in oil. Place in large ungreased baking pan.
4. Cover and bake at 350 F (180 C) for 30 minutes. Uncover; bake for 30 minutes longer or until meat thermometer reads 160 F (71 C) when inserted into meat and juices run clear.

SERVES 6

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!



Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
The worst possible thing you can do over the next 24 hours is try to guess what other people are thinking.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
You have muddled through long enough and unless you get your affairs in order the muddle you're in could cost you dear.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't let other people's doubts hold you back. If there is something you desire then go after it with all you've got.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You may be having second thoughts about something that only yesterday seemed such a good idea.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
You speak your mind without fear or favor and the planets indicate you will be even more outspoken than usual today.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't take anything on trust today because others will take advantage of you if they think they can get away with it.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
As mind planet Mercury is now transiting your sign any doubts you had about what you were doing will be swept away.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
It may seem as if you are on a steep learning curve at the moment but you are up to the challenge.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
Say the right words today and doors that have been closed to you in the past will miraculously open.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You are advised not to take what you hear on the work front seriously today.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
You need to stretch yourself mentally today, especially as you have been involved in some rather trivial matters of late.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You need to make an effort to talk to people who can help you reach your full potential.

President Nick Jonas?

Musician Nick Jonas admits he has aspirations beyond pop music — and they include being the leader of the free world. "I've always said that I would like to be president," the 16-year-old told CNN. "It's kind of my whole thing. I'm starting the campaign now." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Anti-reality show Candy gets her own show

IRONY After bashing her daughter, Tori, for using her two kids as "reality show props," it looks like Candy Spelling is getting her own show, usmagazine.com reports.

Spelling tells radaronline.com her own show is "sort of" in the works, and added that it would be "scripted."

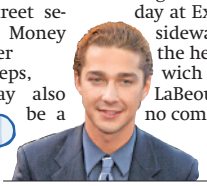
METRO NEWS SERVICES

Shia's film co-star his new fling?

WORKING RELATIONSHIP Shia LaBeouf and Carey Mulligan, co-stars of Oliver Stone's Wall Street sequel, Money Never Sleeps, may also be a pair, people.com reports.

The two were spotted cuddling and kissing Sunday at Extra Virgin, a sidewalk café in the heart of Greenwich Village. LaBeouf's rep had no comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Oprah planning NYC bash?

WITH A BANG Oprah Winfrey is planning to shut down parts of a New York City highway next year for a mammoth block party to celebrate the tenth anniversary of her magazine, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The media mogul launched O, The Oprah Magazine nine years ago — and is planning a major party for next May to celebrate the long-running title.

According to E! Online, Winfrey is looking to shut down portions of the city's West Side Highway for a block party for all her fans — in addition to a star-studded musical revue scheduled at Radio City Music Hall.

A City Hall official has confirmed Winfrey has made permit enquiries for the event; however, the star has so far refused to confirm any details.

Her spokesperson said, "While it is too soon to discuss specifics, we are looking forward to celebrating in a big way."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jon: Reality show an obligation

WORSE THAN A DAY JOB? Jon Gosselin wouldn't mind punching the clock instead of appearing on a hit TLC reality show, usmagazine.com reports.

"I wish I had a 9 to 5 job instead of the nightmare I'm living. This is 24/7," he told usmagazine.com outside his $1.1-million US Pennsylvania home Monday. "I don't even want to do taping for the show anymore."

But Gosselin says he's stuck filming and doing promotional appearances to make as much money as possible. (A source also tells the current issue of Us Weekly that he's "suspicious" Kate is hiding cash ahead of their divorce proceedings. They make an estimated $75,000 US per episode.)

"I have two houses and eight children to take care of and I need to work," he told Us.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

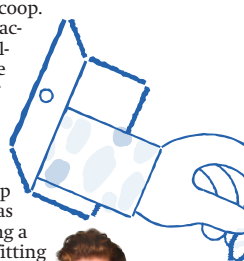
Katherine pregnant?

RUMOUR MILL Katherine Heigl sparked pregnancy rumours after she and husband Josh Kelley were seen shopping for strollers this weekend, according to Hollyscoop.

The actress also gave up her usual cigarette for a lollipop and was wearing a loose-fitting turquoise dress that could be hiding a baby bump.

Heigl's rep had no comment.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



They grow up so fast: Denise

MOTHERHOOD Denise Richards is upset her daughters are going to school, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

She says spending time away from her daughters — Sam, five, and four-year-old Lola — is "bittersweet. Sami starts kindergarten, which I cannot believe, in a couple of weeks. I'm so sad about it."

Richards, 38, is shocked at how quickly the girls have grown up, especially Sam.

She said: "I can't believe how fast five years have gone ... Here on out she's in school."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Move over Liam, MiCy's got a new guy

SERIAL DATER? The last we heard about Miley Cyrus' dating life was less than a week ago when he was reportedly spotted sharing a kiss with Liam Hemsworth, her onscreen love interest in the upcoming flick The Last Song, eonline.com reports.

But whatever the two may have had going on wasn't serious, the website muses. Within a couple of hours of landing back in L.A. from the Georgia set, Cyrus was on a date with a new guy, eonline.com added.

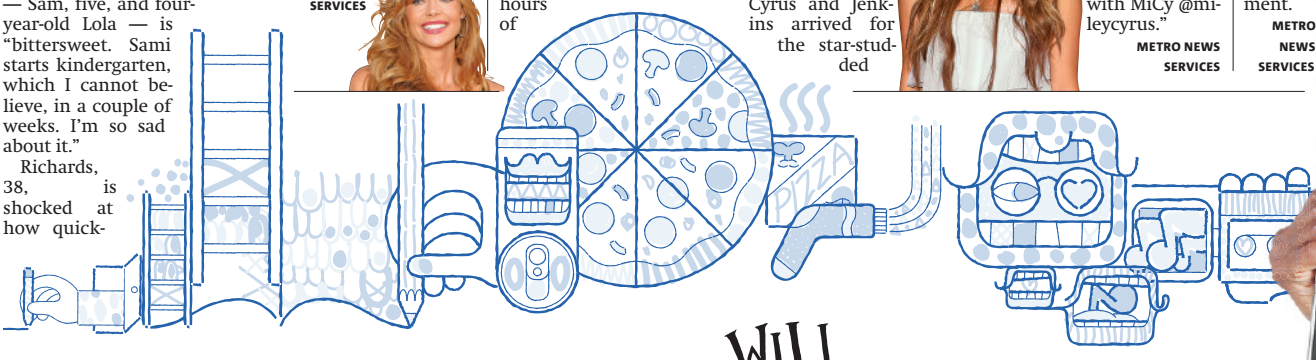
The 16-year-old starlet went to the Kings of Leon concert with Carter Jenkins, 17, an actor she briefly dated before she was with underwear model Justin Gaston.

Shortly after Cyrus and Jenkins arrived for the star-studded show, security escorted them to join Justin Timberlake and Jessica Biel in the best seats in the house — the technician's booth.

Later, the foursome was spotted going backstage for a VIP after-party.

Carter tweeted after the concert, "KOL killed it. Awesome show & very fun night with MiCy @mileycyrus."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Amy sues in-law for leaking letter
Amy Winehouse is seeking $80,000 in damages and suing her former mother-in-law, Georgette Fielder-Civil, for copyright infringement after she sold a personal letter Winehouse wrote to Blake Fielder-Civil while he was in prison. METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity Buzz

Robin's next role: Susan Boyle?

HILARITY Robin Williams putting on a dress to play Britain's Got Talent star Susan Boyle in a biopic? It may sound ridiculous, but the actor says it's a possibility.

"I've been asked if I want to play Susan in the movie," Williams told the Daily Telegraph. "I think she's incredible." Williams has reportedly been entertaining his friends with impressions of Boyle with a thick Scottish accent similar to his Mrs. Doubtfire character.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Melanie's third rehab stint

BACKSLIDE Melanie Griffith is in rehab, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The website says the 52-year-old actress has checked into Utah's Cirque Lodge — where Lindsay Lohan and Kirsten Dunst previously received treatment — to be treated for an undisclosed condition.

Her representative Robin Baum said: "She is there to reinforce her commitment to stay healthy. This is part of a routine plan that was designed between her and her doctors years ago."

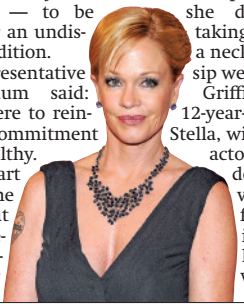
This is Griffith's third stint in a treatment centre. In 1988, she checked in to a facility to help her battle addictions to alcohol and cocaine. In 2000, she sought help for an addiction to painkillers which she developed after taking medication for a neck injury, the gossip website says.

Griffith — who has a 12-year-old daughter, Stella, with her husband, actor Antonio Banderas — has previously said her family has been instrumental in helping her deal with her personal problems. She also has a 24-year-old son, Alexander, and 19-year-old daughter, Dakota, from previous relationships.

It has been claimed her latest stay in rehab came at the insistence of Banderas, who feared her life was spiralling out of control.

A source is quoted by gossip blogger Perez Hilton as saying: "The reason Melanie checked in was her husband was demanding that she get clean and sober. He told her that if she didn't get the help she needed it would be the end of their marriage."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



TomKat-inspired uniforms?

SARTORIAL The designers creating the new uniforms for the Church of Scientology staff members didn't have to look far for inspiration, taking their cues from high-profile church members Katie Holmes and Tom Cruise, according to the Guardian.

"In its entirety, the uniform embodies the essence of international style, at home in Rome or London, but not out of place in Nashville or Ingleswood, and equally well suited to South Africa and Australia," promotional material for the new outfits explained.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Britney is my musical muse: Heidi

DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR? Heidi Montag's debut performance at the Miss Universe pageant reminded a lot of people of Britney Spears' infamous snake-charming routine at the 2000 MTV Video Music Awards, and Montag insists it's no accident.

"I grew up watching Britney Spears. That's someone I inspire to be, you know, like, career-wise," Montag told Access Hollywood after the show.

"I think the world is ready for the next pop star and I'm ready to be the next pop galaxy, so here we go."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Miley Cyrus laments the less-enjoyable parts of her job, Ashton Kutcher gets a kick out his public persona, John Mayer ignores instructions and Tila Tequila gets philosophical.

- @mileycyrus I am so over taking pictures. I am NOT made to be a "model"
- @aplusk I love that I'm described as the beer drinking party boy with no cash lol!!!
- @johncmayer Smucker's Uncrustables peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are to be thawed and not microwaved. But I'm high now!
- @officialTila You're nobody to Somebody and somebody to nobody.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jessica's dog a 'lesbian lova'?

WILD IMAGINATION Jessica Simpson thinks her dog is a lesbian. The singer-and-actress claims her maltipoo pooch Daisy — which was a gift from ex-husband Nick Lachey — has found happiness with a hound called Bella, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Alongside a dimly-lit picture of the dogs, Simpson, 29, tweeted: "Daisy and her best friend Bella back together again. Lesbian lovas forever! (sic)"

While Daisy has found love, Simpson is still bitter she's single after being dumped by football star Tony Romo. It was recently reported she had paid a witch she met on the Internet to put a curse on her ex-boyfriend.

A source said: "They lit a candle, burned some incense and performed a couple of incantations."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES

Jen uses boy-toys for fame?

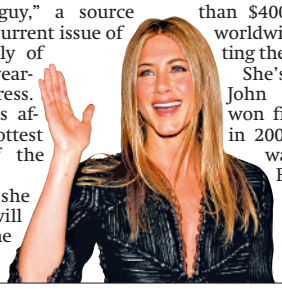
THE RICH AND THE FAMOUS It seems fitting that Jennifer Aniston has been spotted holding hands with Gerard Butler. Friends of the actress say she pursues only guys who can keep her as high-profile as possible, us-magazine.com reports.

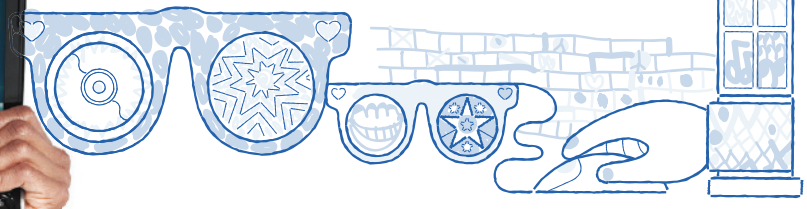
"Jennifer won't date a normal guy," a source told the current issue of Us Weekly of the 40-year-old actress. "She goes after the hottest thing of the moment, what she knows will get her the most time in the spotlight," the insider continued.

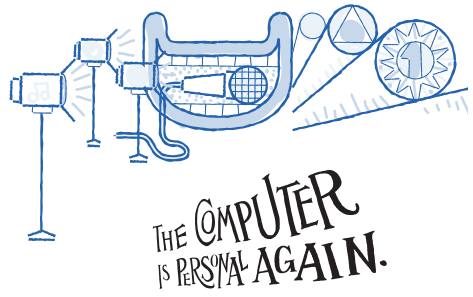
Aniston is currently filming The Bounty Hunter with Gerard Butler, who starred in The Ugly Truth. Before that, she pursued Bradley Cooper, who anchored The Hangover, which has earned more than $400 million US worldwide since hitting theatres in June.

She's also dated John Mayer (who won five Grammys in 2009 alone) and was married to Brad Pitt.

METRO NEWS SERVICES







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